



## **US Army Corps of Engineers**

Norfolk District

### ***News Release***

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## **Army recommends compromise on river restrictions**

NORFOLK, VA. – Army officials recommended today that the New River not be closed or restricted except during extreme times of heightened national security.

After a very careful and thorough review of the facts surrounding the proposed closure of the New River, Lt. Col. Brian Butler, commander of the Radford Army Ammunition Plant, has requested and Col. David Hansen, commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Norfolk District, has recommended approval of the following levels of access to the four-mile stretch of river immediately adjacent to the plant:

- In conditions of military security known as Force Protection Alpha and Bravo, the river would be open to unrestricted use.
- The river would be open with controlled access during Force Protection Charlie.
- The river would be closed in Force Protection Delta, the level of security the military was placed under following the 9/11 attacks.

During those times when the facility is placed in Force Protection Charlie, all persons and vessels would be required to pass through a checkpoint to ensure they are not in possession of dangerous items, including, but not limited to, chemical or biological agents, explosives, explosive devices, detonators, rifles, shotguns, handguns or other instruments that could be used to cause damage or injury to the facility, its personnel or other users of the waterway. Once the vessel and persons are checked they will be allowed unrestricted use of the river.

Col. Butler's request and Col. Hansen's recommendation were based in part on the more than 180 comments received from concerned river users.

The recommendation has been forwarded to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers headquarters for final approval.

For more information contact Rick Henderson at (757) 441-7653.

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